

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

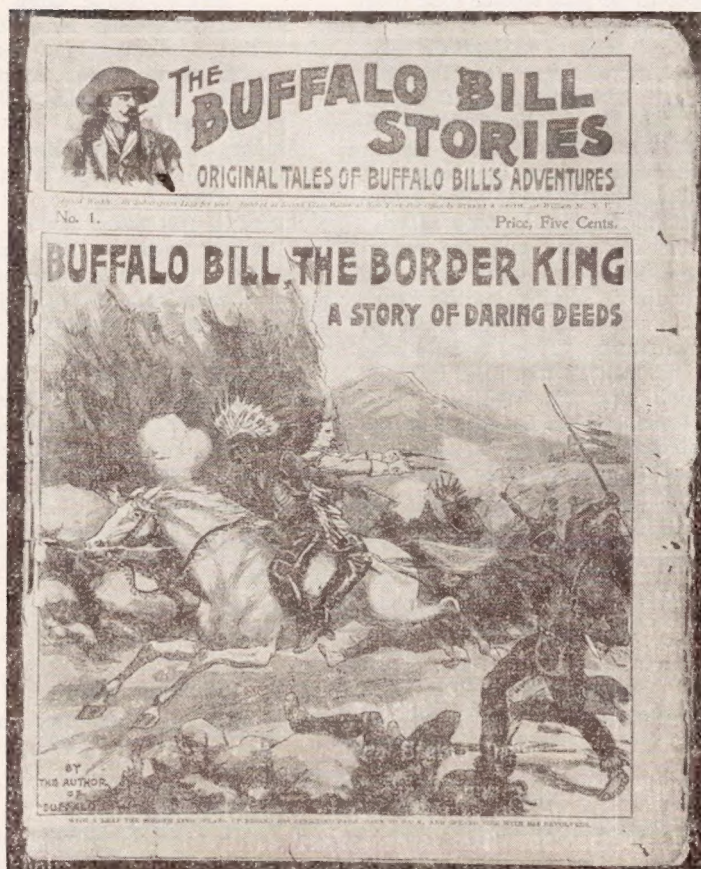
Vol. 24, No. 12

December 15, 1956

Whole No. 291

## Buckskin Bill Recalls Famous Iowa Neighbors and a Trip to Old Missouri

by J. Edward Leithead



Buffalo Bill Stories No. 1.  
The first colored cover weekly about Buffalo Bill.  
(From the Charlie Duprez picture collection.)

## Buckskin Bill Recalls Famous Iowa Neighbors and a Trip to Old Missouri

by J. Edward Leithead

One of the most ardent collectors of Buffalo Billiana is Col. Charles D. Randolph, "Buckskin Bill", of Davenport, Iowa. He has a very special reason for being a Buffalo Bill enthusiast—the Cody and the Randolph families were once neighbors in Iowa. Buckskin Bill's grandfather worked for Isaac Cody on the 1000 acre Breckenridge Farm in the Wapsipinicon Valley (Grandpa Randolph himself owned a 200-acre farm along the Wapsi River and timber land over in Clinton County).

Mr. Cody, father of Buffalo Bill, erected a stone house on "The Big Farm," and the memory of it remained with Mrs. Julia Cody Goodman, Buffalo Bill's eldest sister. When she returned to the scenes of her childhood in 1927, the year before she died, Col. Randolph motored with her to the old farm and she recognized familiar spots before they had quite reached it, saying, as the house loomed up on a small hill north of the Wapsi bluffs, "There it is! I was 14 and Bill was 12 when we left it!"

Randolph and his brother Victor took pictures of Mrs. Goodman on the porch of the old stone house—how much had happened since she last

stood there as a girl of fourteen!—then they drove to Walnut Grove, the site of an earlier Cody farm, where the brother of Julia and Bill Cody, Samuel Isaac Cody, was killed by a horse when but a boy. The old buildings had vanished, so no pictures were taken.

Samuel Cody is buried at Long Grove, and there Buffalo Bill erected a marble gravestone with the inscription:

Samuel Isaac Cody  
Son of Isaac and Mary Cody  
Died September 11, 1843,  
age 12 years, 6 mos., 18 days  
"Farewell, Dear Child, a Long  
Farewell,  
Depart to Meet No More  
Until We Are Arisen With Thee  
to Dwell."

Buckskin Bill wrote me in 1955, "I had to get down on my knees and push the sod away at base of monument to read this inscription at the bottom where the engraving is faded and blurred."

On that last visit to Iowa, Mrs. Goodman arrived in Davenport in the company of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Cody of Chicago, cousins of hers. There was quite a gathering at the Black

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and Full Page \$5.00. — 4 times for the price of three.

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publication in the following month's issue.



Hawk Hotel. Besides the Randolphs, there were two old schoolmates of the Codys, Col. Joe Barnes of Le-Claire and Hon. Charles Rich of Princeton, Iowa, and reporters of the Davenport "Times" and "Democrat," the latter to take pictures and write up columns on the famous visitor. In one of these photos, Buckskin Bill, in buckskins and sombrero and riding boots, is in the front row with Mrs. Goodman and Col. Barnes. Frontier garb was very appropriate to the occasion, as Julia Cody, before she married Al Goodman and afterward, must have seen her famous scout and showman brother thus clad more often than in an ordinary business suit.

Back in the early '80's, Buckskin Bill's father, Aaron P. Randolph was homesteading in Nebraska. One day he rode into North Platte. At that time Buffalo Bill owned and lived on his ranch, "Scouts' Rest Ranch," west of town, and Bill Cody himself, riding into North Platte that same day, entered the bar where Aaron Randolph was standing. Randolph spoke to Cody, they shook hands, and he asked the famous plainsman if he remembered living in Iowa on the "Big Farm."

"Yes," replied Cody, "very vividly."

Randolph then asked, "Remember riding on a water wagon with a young man who drove a dun or buckskin team of ponies and delivered water to the harvest hands?"

"You bet I remember him!" Cody declared.

"That was my father, Daniel Randolph," said Aaron.

"I remember him well," Buffalo Bill went on, "as I was quite a chunk of a boy at the time. Dan Randolph! Is he still living? I'd judge he'd be about the age of my old pard, California Joe."

Cody then tossed a twenty-dollar gold piece on the bar and called for drinks for the house. The natives rushed to the bar in a wild stampede.

Last September, 1955, the Randolph Boys, Charles and Victor, made a trip to the country of the James Boys, which, horseback, is a good long ride

from Davenport, but much less by automobile. Starting at 8:18 A.M., they arrived at the state-line of Missouri at 5 P.M. Stopped at a motel near Excelsior Springs, Mo. The next day they arrived at Kearney, about three miles from the James Farm. Visited the grave of Jesse James, on the edge of town, then returned to Kearney, where they met a Mr. Asbury, who knew and had played cards with Frank James; George Hall, son of Fannie Quantrill Samuels, half-sister of the James Boys, and Mr. C. V. Froman, a historian preacher. The latter gave them post cards and newspapers pertaining to the James Brothers. With him in their car, the Randolphs visited the house where Mrs. Samuels, mother of Frank and Jesse James, once lived after the Civil War and they also saw the house where Jesse James was married. They drove out of town 5 or 6 miles to see the grave of McClelland D. Miller, a member of the James Boys' band of outlaws, who was killed at Northfield, Minn.

The Randolph Boys next stop was the James Farm, where they met Robert James and his wife. Mrs. James took them through the house and for fifty cents apiece they received photos of the Rev. Robert James, father of the James Boys, Mrs. Reuben Samuels, Jesse and Frank James, and Jesse James, Jr., and Mary James, son and daughter of Jesse W. James.

A pleasant afternoon was spent with Frank James' son, Robert Franklin James. He told the Randolphs of his father living many places during his outlaw days, such as Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and finally he sent his family to California by train and he, Frank James, sailed from New York by way of Panama to California, where he stayed until shortly before he surrendered. He moved back to Kansas City under the name of B. F. Winfrey. In October, 1882, Frank James met his old friend, Major Edwards, at Jefferson City, Mo., and surrendered in broad daylight, handing his



gun and belt to Governor Crittenden. He remarked, "No man except myself has handled this gun"—a .45 cal. Remington long-barreled pistol — "since 1861." And he added, "Governor, I am your prisoner."

Frank James was tried on many counts, for bank and train robbery, but in the end, after one year, was acquitted, and lived a peaceful life until his death in 1915. He lived for a time in St. Louis, Kansas City, and at Fletcher, Oklahoma, where he owned and farmed a quarter-section of land, and finally in his old age returned to the James Farm near Kearney. His only son, Robert James, now 75 years old, owns and lives on the James Farm, established back in the 1840's by the Rev. Robert James, who went West in 1849 and died in California.

The night of September 15th, Buckskin Bill and his brother Victor put up in the heart of the James Boys country, a tourist camp in Clay County enroute to Jackson County, home of the Younger Brothers, their destination being Lee's Summit, Mo. Arriving at high noon, they located and visited two prominent people, first Mr. Schick, who showed them a cap-and-ball pistol owned and used by Cole Younger during the Civil War. Charles Randolph here purchased an enlarged photo of Cole Younger. After a pleasant visit with Mr. and Mrs. Schick, who had entertained Cole Younger many times in this house, the Randolphs drove to the lower part of Lee's Summit, where they met Mr. Harry Younger Hall, nephew of the Younger Brothers—no relation to the George Hall they had met at Kearney, kin of the James Boys.

Harry Y. Hall, a real gentleman of 83 years, showed his visitors a book written by Cole Younger, an autobiography of himself, which was sold during the year he was traveling with the Frank James & Cole Younger Wild West Show at 25 cents a copy. Mr. Hall has refused an offer of \$100 for his copy of the book. In it are photos of the James Boys, the

Younger Brothers, Quantrill and many of the guerrillas of the Civil War, and of bandits who rode with the James-Younger Gang, as well as photos of the father and mother of the Younger Brothers, Henry W. Younger and Mary F. Younger.

The Randolphs received numerous photos of the Younger family, and Mr. Hall accompanied them to the graves of Cole, Jim and Bob Younger, and their mother, at the edge of town. There were two stones at the grave of Cole Younger, one a monument with the inscription: "Cole Younger, 1844-1916." The other smaller marker or stone of honor had been placed there by the Veterans of the Confederacy and was inscribed: "Captain Cole Younger, CSA." The fourth brother, John Younger, was buried where he fell by the bullet of a Pinkerton detective in 1872, near the town of Harrisville.

The Randolphs and Mr. Hall then drove out to the original farm of the Youngers, where all the brothers were born, also their sisters. They were invited into the house by the man who resided there, viewed all the rooms, upstairs and down, and drank at the well. Across the road was Cass County, Mo. Mr. Hall said Cole Younger attended church regularly at Lee's Summit; a church, said Mr. Hall, he had never broken away from. Mr. Hall added, "I knew Frank James well, and I traveled with the Frank James & Cole Younger Wild West Show in 1901, as did Robert James, Frank's son."

From the Younger Farm they passed by the house where Mr. Hall's mother lived in Lee's Summit just prior to the Northfield Raid. The night the Younger Brothers left Missouri on their way north, there was a tap on the window and she opened it to recognize her brother Cole, who bid her goodbye, and said Mr. Hall, "I remember the incident clearly." They stopped by the house where Cole Younger lived from the time he returned to Missouri until his death in 1916. His niece, the sister of Mr. Hall, kept house for Cole and at his



death he willed the house to her. Mr. Hall himself once lived there.

Mr. Robert James, son of Frank James, and Mr. Harry Hall, nephew of Cole Younger, both stated that the James Boys and the Younger Brothers were not related, although it has been published in numerous books that they were first cousins.

On their return trip, after bidding Mr. Hall goodbye in the afternoon of September 16th, the Randolph Boys of Old Iowa visited many places where the James-Younger Gang had been accused of bank and train robbery in Missouri: Liberty, Independence, Winston and Gallatin. A few miles out of Gallatin they observed at the side of the road a large bronze memorial plate inscribed with the date and place where Frank James was tried for the Gallatin bank robbery and acquitted in 1883. It was at this point that the Randolph Boys passed out of the James Boys country in Missouri just as dusk was settling over the Missouri hills. And they journeyed on in the dark of night with thoughts of a past which will never return, when the James Boys and the Younger Brothers rode through these hills, hollows and over the prairies of Missouri, now a modern, settled country where autos speed over the roads on marked and numbered highways.

The End

### NEWSY NEWS

by **Ralph F. Cummings**  
Fisherville, Mass.

Howard B. Silsbee wrote that there is a fine article in the July issue of True Magazine, on Ned Buntline. I haven't seen it yet, but will keep my peepers open for it.

Guess I made a little mistake on Bob Frye, so here is the real facts. Bob says the one team he played against was the Washington team, and not the Brooklyn team.

Charles Duprez was taken to the Central Islip Hospital on Long Island, N. Y., about the middle of November, so we are a hoping he is

back home again, and a feeling like a new man. Good luck to you from us all.

Captain Frank C. Acker, U.S.N., writes that he was particularly impressed with the fine article in the Sept. 15th number of the Round-Up on "My Remembrances of Gilbert Patten." By James E. Knott, and he would like to tell Mr. Knott what a fine job he did.

Capt. Acker is now back at his home address again, for a little while any way. His address is Capt. Frank C. Acker, U.S.N., 1202 Lake Shores Road, Bayside, Va.

Ralph P. Smith heard from Mrs. Frank Willson that her husband had been in the Mary Fletcher Hospital in Burlington, Vermont, in Sept. He is now at home recuperating. So, Frank, we all send you our very best, Pard.

Carl Linville went to see Kansas City, to visit some old friends, and ran right into a large parade, put on by the big Convention meeting of the Shriners of the Mid-west for about 8 states. He said it was a sight to see. Large bands, all kinds of floats, hundreds of clowns, vehicles fixed up like locomotives, shooting bombs and Arabian horses, but the clowns took the cake, as some wore stilts in long pants, and cut all kinds of dodos. Lots of the shriners were dressed up as Turks, Arabs, Africans, etc., and all kinds of musical instruments, and was the most wonderful display he had ever witnessed.

George French has been helping to write a "History of Porter," (Maine) and he's done plenty of hiking, looking for old cellars and grave yards, and following abandoned roads of long ago. The book will be over 375 pages, and no doubt is on the press now. In George's travel, he came across a fellow 84 years old, who had some old dime novels, so George landed some black and whites for a change, the only find he's had all summer, so fellers, you see there is some novels still around, and it takes patience in rooting them out.

It's been a long time since we've



heard from Dare Devil Dave Adams from California. Let's hear from him and others as well.

Coming back to Howard B. Silsbee, he was out to the west coast on a vacation this past summer. On the way back he expected to drive thru Missouri so as to visit Jesse James grave, and the old house of his where he used to hide out occasionally and where the explosion of the Pinkerton's maimed his dear mother, as he said he was sure it wasn't too far out of his way.

Albert Johnson says if you want to read more about "Bat Masterson: The Gunhawk Who Wasn't," read the Dec. 1956 issue of Men—True Adventure Magazine. In the article, you'll read about Ned Buntline, the King of Dime Novel writers and many others, and also learn that some gunfighters of the past weren't such fighters as has been written about them.

Fellers, if you get a chance, get a copy of Dell First Edition #A124—"Rebel Gun," by Arthur Stever. Missouri—1866: A Blazing Saga of a Kid who rode with Jesse James." It's already on the newsstands. It's a humdinger.

J. Edward Leithhead sent in some news for this column. A son was born to Ed's son and his wife on October 10th, making three grandchildren he now has so far. They are naming the boy Larry Edward—"Larry" for Larry Ordway, a cowboy about whom Edward wrote 11 stories, including four serials (two of which were afterward published in pocket book form) and "Edward" of course for him, J. Edward L. He is a fine baby, eats well and is gaining weight rapidly. His two little sisters, Linda and Ellen think he's wonderful. Looking back over the years, all his grandchildren, and his son Bill, all got a notice of birth in either the Happy Hours magazine or the Dime Novel Roundup. All your articles in Round-up are fine Ed, so keep up the good work.

Ye editor Cummings of this column has visited with both Don Learnard and John McDonald, also Frank Henry lately.

Harry A. Weill writes that J. P. Guinon bemoans the fact that some collectors and students of Dime Novels have died without ever having committed to the printed word, their knowledge concerning the authors and the Dime Novels themselves which they have spent years in gathering. So fellers, send in your articles for the Round-up—don't delay.

Walter A. Higgins and Kenneth Daggett from up in Maine, visited with each other a while back, and did some trading for such as novels, books, post cards and what not. Ken showed Walter a nice lot of Pluck & Lucks—prized numbers.

At long last, I've just heard from another old timer, Rev. Roland D. Sawyer, Kensington, N. H., who is now 83 years young. I can't blame you for not writing pard, for I'm the one who is to blame, for not writing to you. Brother Sawyer has sent in 3 articles that will appear from time to time in our glorious little magazine, the D. N. Round-up.

Denis R. Rogers, Room 802, 1111 Beaver Hall Hill, Montreal 1, P. Q., Canada, wishes Good News, Vol. 5, Nos. 107 to 129, May 21st to Oct. 22, 1892. Or in other words, the numbers containing the serial "The Gold Thieves," by Capt. L. C. Carleton, also Family Story Paper Vol. 15, Nos. 742 to 761. Dec. 24, 1887 to May 5th, 1888 "My Plucky Boy Tom," by P. T. Barnum.

Wishing you all a merry, merry Christmas and a very happy new year all around, from us all to you all.

Edward T. LeBlanc  
Reckless Ralph Cummings  
Charles Duprez

#### EXCHANGE COLUMN

For Sale: 60 Ted Strongs thick size Street & Smiths, good condition, \$25. Jack Schorr, 11572 So. Cypress St., Orange, Calif.

Wanted: Three Chums #5, 32, Wide Awake Weekly #53, 115, Work and Win #147, 148, 156, 176, 182, Young Klondike #5, 37, 38, 39. Yankee Doodle #2. George French, 7 Leo Terrace, Bloomfield, N. J.



## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 100 Roy E. Swanstrom, 4308 2nd St. N. W., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. (New add.)  
 213 F. E. Haynes, 38 Atlantic Ave., Ocean Grove, N. J. (New member)  
 6 George French, 7 Leo Terrace, Bloomfield, N. J. (Winter address)  
 214 A. Simon, 121 Garrison Ave., Jersey City, N. J.

INTERESTING DIME NOVEL  
FACTS

by Howard B. Silsbee

Can't get over in a sense, how much better the paper was of the early dime novels. The paper we use today would not stand up as well but the print was so small through the '60's, '70's and '80's that one can't help but believe the eyes were a lot better in those days.

In some instances when Indian scalped a whole family and were feeling particularly vengeful, they would even scalp the dog of the household.

Often Beadle would use the same picture on entirely different novels and of course there are numerous examples of dime novels with different titles on the cover than the title on the inside.

Francis Smith (of Street & Smith) was quite a writer of thrillers himself and his stories really put the New York Weekly in 1855 (successor to the New York Dispatch) on the

map as a successful weekly.

Our Brotherhood can't be so very old of the heyday of the Dime Novel or even the Wild West when you consider that Diamond Dick, Deadwood Dick, Shawnee Bill, Jim Cummins, and other old time scouts have actually been members of the Brotherhood. Smeltzer, Smith and Cummings have actually had personal letters from Diamond Dick otherwise known as Dr. Richard Tanner.

How many of you know actually how Diamond Dick came by his nick name? It was due to a fabulous vest (Mexican) which was studded with diamonds.

## WANTED

Pamphlets on crime before 1880 such as those published by Barclay & Co., Philadelphia. Also interesting early Broad sides on poetry, advertising, etc. Please describe condition carefully.

Benjamin Tighe

1755 Main St.

Athol 1, Mass.

## FOR SALE

ALL SPORTS LIBRARY (Fine uncut condition)

- #26 Jack Lightfoot's Hard Luck
- 28 Jack Lightfoot on the Matt
- 30 Jack Lightfoot In the Box
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Also Nos.: 40. Jack Lightfoot's Trap Shooting; 46. J. L.'s Triumph; 47. J. L. Down in Dixie; 49. J. L. on Snow Shoes; 50. J. L. Snowed Up; 51. J. L.'s Enemies; 52. J. L. at Seagirt; 53. J. L.'s Hazing; 54. J. L.'s First Victory; 55. J. L.'s Peril; 56. J. L.'s Ice Boat. One or two have very light water stain—uncut. Price 75c each, all 11 for \$8.00. Or \$12.00 for all above.

Circus photos, assorted, 11c each or 10 for \$1.00.

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.

## YOUNG MEN OF AMERICA

This is a big Tousey eight page story paper, with huge front page black-and-white illustrations, as well as inside illustrations. Similar to Boys of New York in appearance.

- #101 to 104, fair and average. \$2.00
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- 118 to 126, mostly average. \$4.50
- 131 to 147, mostly average. \$8.00
- 239 to 243, average and good. \$2.50
- 301 to 312, average and poor. \$4.00
- 314 to 345, motly good. \$30.00
- 314 to 344, average and good. \$12.50
- 357 to 362, fair and good. \$3.00
- 372 to 385, fair, poor, parts of some pages out. \$3.50
- 389 to 469, mostly good; few fair. \$60.00
- 400 to 408, good and fair. \$4.50
- 433 to 468, good and average. \$17.50
- 472 to 485, mostly good. Few fair. \$6.00
- 471 to 525, mostly good. \$40.00
- 500 to 508, average. \$4.50
- 526 to 635, last number. A very nice run. \$95.00
- 526 to 635. A few numbers, maybe half a dozen, at the start are repaired. Papers clean, white, almost like new. Bound in two handsome red buckrum volumes. \$100.00

Single copies available. Good condition, \$1.00 each.

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Boys & Girls Weekly. Small size 40c, large size 75c.

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### RALPH P. SMITH

Box 985

Lawrence, Mass.

## A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year To All